

DSW crews continue pole rehab project

Continuing an ambitious maintenance project, DSW crews have replaced more than 150 miles of wood poles since the fall of 1998. To maintain reliable power, Western is replacing wood poles with steel poles across DSW's service territory. With many wood poles beyond their service life, steel pole replacement will reduce costs associated with maintaining wood structures.

Comparing the two pole types, the advantages of steel over wood are impressive. The service life of steel poles is twice that of wood. Wood is heavy and awkward, while steel is lighter and stronger. Steel poles don't need chemical treatment and aren't susceptible to rot, insects and woodpeckers. While wood poles are relatively expensive and in higher demand, steel poles are less expensive to buy and ship.

As part of Western's attempt to flat-line rates for customers, the wood pole rehabilitation program has advantages that could be used to benefit all regions.



A worker places a new steel pole along the 161-kV Parker-Davis transmission line. (Photo by Dawn Reed)